

Gov. Hill, in his inaugural address to the New York legislature on New Years day, vigorously condemns the increasing corruption which, he says, is becoming incident to our elections. Thus the habit of "swearing off" on New Years is perpetuated.

The United States Senatorship.
The joint caucus of the republican members of the legislature to nominate a candidate for United States senator to succeed Thos. W. Palmer, was held Wednesday evening of last week at the capitol.

Senator Palmer, of Mecosta, in an eloquent and admirably constructed speech, presented the name of James McMillan, which nomination was seconded by senators and representatives from various parts of the state, and finally, when Speaker Diekema said: "Gentlemen, you have heard the nomination of James McMillan for United States senator; all those in favor of the nomination please arise," every republican senator and representative in the hall—91 of the whole number of 94 being present—was on his feet in an instant.

This nomination was but the simple act of the legislators executing the demands of their constituents, for James McMillan had already been nominated in that highest of all earthly tribunals—the hearts of the people—long before the assembling, or even the election, of the present legislature. The unparalleled unanimity of the action, however, is a great compliment to its recipient—such a compliment as is rarely paid to any man now-a-days.

The Legislative Caucuses.

The republican caucus for speaker, and other officers of the house, was held in Representative hall, Lansing, on Tuesday evening of last week, and resulted in the selection of the following officers: Gerit J. Diekema, speaker; W. W. Williams, speaker pro tem.; Daniel L. Crossman, (for the ninth consecutive session), secretary; W. H. Dunn, of Oceana, serg't-at-arms; G. W. Foot, of Hillsdale, first ass't serg't-at-arms, and Henry Spaulding, of Van Buren, second assistant. The struggle for the speakership was a hot one between Dr. Baker, of Berrien, and Mr. Diekema, but the forces of the latter were the better handled and he was nominated on the first ballot by the following vote: Diekema, 38; Baker, 29. Necessary to a choice, 34. Diekema is but 29 years of age; is a good parliamentarian and, it is claimed by his friends, his occupancy of the speaker's chair will insure dispatch in the transaction of business.

In the senate caucus, Senator Ball was nominated president pro tem.; John S. Brubaker, serg't-at-arms; R. M. Allen, of Berrien, ass't, and Capt. James McKay, of Grand Rapids, second ass't. At 3 p. m. of Wednesday both houses took a recess and went through the formality of ratifying the republican caucus nominations of the previous evening, thus perfecting their respective organizations.

Governor Luce's Message.

In his message to the legislature, Gov. Luce calls attention to many questions that are of importance to the people; discusses in terse language the salient points in each; admonishes the law-makers to use caution in their legislation, that their acts may stand the scrutiny of the supreme court, and on this topic says: "A growing evil has been developed in more recent legislation by the enactment of laws in conflict with the constitution of the state. . . . The failure of so many laws in recent years somewhat weakens confidence in the wisdom of the legislature that enacts and the executive who approves these measures," and earnestly recommends "the appointment of a joint committee composed of three of the most eminent lawyers in the two houses, whose duty it shall be to carefully examine proposed legislation with a view of determining its constitutionality."

The governor gives the liquor question more space than any other topic, and from him we quote a few sentences: "The policy of all civilized countries is to discourage intemperance and mitigate its evils by legislation. This is eminently true of our own state. The questions connected with it form one of the most difficult problems submitted to you for solution. . . . Evidences of the magnitude of the evils of intemperance are to be found in every direction. Those who visit our state prisons, reformatory and charitable institutions with a desire to investigate the causes that fill these institutions, are painfully reminded of the evils inflicted upon society by the traffic in, and use of, strong drink. It is certainly the right and the duty of law makers to exhaust every effort in applying a remedy for these evils, and when the remedy is discovered, whatever it may be, it must be fearlessly and effectively applied. The sentiment of our state, as clearly indicated at the polls, is in favor of the adoption of such measures as will restrict the evils of intemperance to the narrowest possible limits, and in doing this we must not forget that the laws relating to this subject, as well as others, must be enforced by public sentiment. . . . It is to be deplored that agencies once so promising and potent have been impaired, even destroyed, by strife and contention, and some that were once active in propagating and building up temperance sentiments are now using their power solely and alone to propagate and build

up party. . . . Believing that the sentiment of a large portion of the state is ripe and ready for it, I commend to your consideration the passage of a local option law, if one can be devised free from constitutional objections." The message, as a whole, is the most comprehensive and thoughtful state paper issued by the executive of this state in many years.

Chariot Race From Ben Hur.
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